



October 12, 2009

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael J. Copps  
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: October 22nd Open Meeting

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski and Commissioners:

We at SeniorNet are grateful for the opportunity to participate in the creation of a National Broadband Plan. We submitted comments and reply comments over the summer that emphasized the transformative power that broadband connections can have for senior citizens. We hope that the Commission continues to work to identify and eliminate barriers that prevent today's seniors from adopting broadband.

We have seen firsthand how broadband connections can enhance seniors' quality of life. Telemedicine applications offer convenient and affordable health care solutions, while distance learning enables continued education for seniors. These opportunities and the empowerment that comes from mastering technology are contributing to the mental well-being of elderly Americans. In fact, a recent study by the Phoenix Center found that Internet use reduces the instance of clinical depression in older Americans by about twenty percent. Given these benefits, it is imperative that all seniors are exposed to this life-changing technology.

With this in mind, we are concerned about the Commission's proposed net neutrality regulations and the impact that these rules could have on broadband adoption rates. Before the Commission takes any action, it must examine the potential impacts that net neutrality could have on prices, access, and adoption. The consequences must be especially analyzed for communities that already have low adoption rates, like seniors. In many cases, groups that are the lowest adopters have the most to gain from broadband.

At this time, we hope that the Commission will continue to focus on bringing broadband to 100 percent of Americans through the creation of the National Broadband Plan. Until that goal is realized, policies should not be considered that could stand in its way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leslie M. Smith", written over a horizontal line.

Leslie M. Smith  
Chairman of the Board

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